

DRAFTG/I-256
2 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Director, National Estimates
FROM: Assistant Director, Research and Reports
SUBJECT: Contribution to NIE 12.6-58, The Outlook in Poland

1. The following is submitted as an informal contribution by the Geographic Research Area to the question asked under IV-D-3 of the terms of reference for NIE 12.6-58: What are the prospects, if any, for a change in Poland's policy concerning its Western borders?

Judging from Polish achievements in and plans for the so-called Western Territories, there will be no change in Poland's policy regarding the Oder-Neisse line.

The Poles regard the Western Territories as an integral part of Poland and depend on the agricultural and industrial resources of these territories in the economic development of the country. A primary objective of the postwar development program in the Western Territories has therefore been to transform the area in a way that would preclude revision of the western border. Vigorous efforts have been made to evacuate the German population of the area and resettle it with ethnic Poles. Economic activities which would be oriented toward the needs of Poland's postwar economy have been reestablished and strengthened. Production throughout

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the region has been stimulated in an effort to achieve levels comparable with the pre-war years.

At the present time, the transformation process in the region has achieved substantial progress. The population is now predominantly Polish and numbers approximately 6 million, 1 million less than before World War II. In addition, production from many branches of heavy industry has approached or exceeded prewar levels. The 1957 hard coal output in the Western Territories approximated the prewar production, while that of coke nearly doubled production achieved in 1938. The present electric power output constitutes an increase of 75 percent over the 1938 output. Expansion of the iron and steel industry has resulted in a substantial rise over the prewar production of pig iron, and an increase of more than a 100 percent in the raw steel output. Notable increases have also been made in the machine tool and chemical industries, whose present productions are several times greater than before World War II. Light industry and agriculture, however, still lag far behind their prewar status, reflecting the neglect of these activities under the pre-Gomulka regime. Efforts since 1956 have been directed toward stimulating a more rational land-use program under private ownership and toward reactivating many of the consumer-oriented industrial enterprises that had been abandoned.

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A large number of government committees, academic institutes, and local groups are currently cooperating actively with the national organization, The Society for the Development of the Western Territories, in planning and implementing projects and programs that will further revive the neglected and depressed parts of the Western Territories and bind them closely to the nation.

2. We should welcome any comments or further requests that you may have.

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